

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Public Reprimand)
of the Educator Certificates of)
Carlton McAdams)
Certificates 134148 and 904498)

**CONSENT ORDER
OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 14, 2007. On June 11, 2007, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible action against his South Carolina Educator Certificates (certificates) to Carlton McAdams by certified mail, restricted delivery, and return receipt requested. Upon receipt of that letter, Mr. McAdams requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed through legal counsel to resolve this matter without a hearing by agreeing to the following terms: (1) a public reprimand will be issued by the State Board, (2) this public reprimand will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct," and (3) this order will be maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel of the Department. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue a Consent Order of Public Reprimand on the terms set forth above.

Accepted: 
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Date: 10-30-07
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McAdams
#134148
and
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FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. McAdams holds a professional educator certificate in Science, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Programming, and has eight years of teaching experience. He has no prior record of disciplinary actions with the State Board. Mr. McAdams was employed by the Fairfield County School District (District) as a science teacher at Fairfield Central High School (School). Mr. McAdams resigned from his employment, effective March 29, 2007, following allegations that he had brought a firearm on the campus of the School.

On March 21, 2007, the School administration conducted a random drug and weapons search in the student/teacher parking lot. During the search one of dogs was tipped when it came to Mr. McAdams' car. When Mr. McAdams was called to open his car, a .357 magnum handgun and ammunition were found locked in the glove compartment. The ammunition and gun were turned over to the school resource officer. Mr. McAdams has a concealed weapons permit issued by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. That day, the principal placed Mr. McAdams on administrative leave with pay, effective March 22, 2007, until an investigation was complete. On March 29, 2007, Mr. McAdams submitted his resignation for personal reasons, effective immediately, which was ratified by the Board of Trustees on April 3, 2007.

Mr. McAdams has a Computer Consulting business. On occasion, Mr. McAdams' receives large amounts of cash and checks in this business. Mr.

Accepted:

In His Place

Date:
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McAdams uses a 1982 Kia Spectrum, the vehicle in question, for transportation of these monies. On March 21, 2007, Mr. McAdams drove this vehicle to school because his regular school transport vehicle (a 1985 Chevy truck) did not operate that morning.

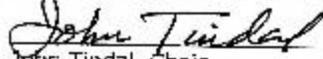
As a consequence of trying to get to school by 7:30 a.m., Mr. McAdams forgot he had the handgun in the Kia Spectrum vehicle. Mr. McAdams acknowledges his negligence, but asserts he had no intent of revealing or using the handgun on school property. Mr. McAdams was issued a handgun permit based upon applicable state law after an extensive background investigation. He has no criminal record and has never been disciplined by the State Board of Education or any School District. Mr. McAdams' mistake was a result of his negligence on March 21, 2007, and he regrets his actions. Mr. McAdams will not repeat this mistake again.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. (Supp. 2006). The Board finds that the substantial evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause does not exist to suspend or revoke Carlton McAdams' certificates; however, just cause does exist for a Public Reprimand of Mr. McAdams' conduct. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand as set forth above.

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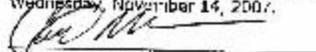
South Carolina State Board of Education


John Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

November 14, 2007

I, Carlton McAdams, SC Teaching Certificate # 134148 and 904498, have read the Consent Order of Public Appraisal, consisting of three pages, and I truly and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.


Signature

10-30-07
Date